

HOUSE RESOLUTION 64

By Love

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Sam Smith of Davidson County.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Sam Smith of Davidson County; and

WHEREAS, Sam Smith was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born in Canton, Mississippi, Mr. Smith graduated from Tennessee State University (TSU) and worked as a trainer at TSU and a track official under legendary Olympic Coach Ed Temple. Mr. Smith later returned to his alma mater to serve as a volunteer track coach; and

WHEREAS, wholly devoted to being a positive role model for young people, Sam Smith began his teaching career at North High School, where he taught social studies, biology, math, and physical education. He later taught at Whites Creek High School and began coaching baseball, football, and track and field; and

WHEREAS, during his illustrious career at Whites Creek High School, Coach Smith was named Coach of the Year in 1982, 1986, 1987, and 1990; he was the runner-up Coach of the Year in 1989 and 1997; and

WHEREAS, Coach Smith led the girls track team to numerous successful seasons, including Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) State Championships in 1989 and 1997, fourteen TSSAA State runner-up seasons, and many regional championships and meet championships; numerous college scholarships were earned under his leadership; and

WHEREAS, Sam Smith continued to serve at Whites Creek High School as a coach for track, baseball, basketball, soccer, and the Half-Timers dance team before retiring from teaching and coaching at the high school. A beloved mentor and trusted colleague, his career with Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools spanned from 1969 to 2004; and

WHEREAS, from 1980 until his passing, Coach Smith led the Continental T-Belles Track Club, a group of young ladies ages eight to eighteen from Nashville and the surrounding cities, to national competitions sanctioned by the USA Track and Field Association (USATF); and

WHEREAS, Coach Smith sent 525 participants to the USATF Junior Outdoor Championships; in sum, 1,050 T-Belles runners participated in his program, and 100 percent of T-Belles athletes graduated from high school; and

WHEREAS, though Coach Smith was certainly successful on the field of competition, he understood the value of balancing athletics and education. With each of his teams, he had a two-fold mission: to win championships and to ensure that his young athletes were giving their all to academics as well as sports; he conducted homework checks and personally saw to it that those students who showed potential were enrolled in college prep courses and took the necessary college entrance tests; and

WHEREAS, Sam Smith's name is synonymous with track and field in the Nashville area; for many years, he hosted the annual Sam Smith Track Clinic, and in 2016, the track facility at Whites Creek High School was named in his honor; and

WHEREAS, Sam Smith leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Coach Smith devoted thirty-six years of his life to coaching track and field in Nashville; although it is difficult to imagine anyone who could fill the void left by his passing, it is certain that his good work and positive influence will echo through the generations he affected and those to come; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the memory of Sam Smith, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Smith.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.